industrial sickness amongst SSI units and has taken various measures to facilitate timely identification and rehabilitation of potentially viable sick industries, which *inter-alia*, includes institutional mechanism in the form of State Level Inter-Institutional Committee, special rehabilitation cells in banks and state financial institution and elaborate guidelines issued by RBI for extending rehabilitation assistance to the eligible units. The Government of Gujarat has constituted in August 1998, the Gujarat Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (GBIFR) for helping revival of sick SSI units having investments in plant and machinery above Rs. 5 lakhs.

Cottage industries on the verge of extinction

†885. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that many cottage industries and traditions to be thrived in rural areas of India are now on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, whether Government have conducted any survey about such extinctable cottage industries and traditions;

(c) if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (d) The Government has launched a National programme for Rural Industrialisation under which 100 rural clusters are to be established every year. KVIC has identified 50 rural clusters, of which 11 clusters have already been extended with need-based support. The clusters idenfitied are located in the States of Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and the North-Eastern States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur. The activities covered include soap,

†Original notice of the question received in Hindi.

handmade paper, bee keeping, leather, silk khadi, cane and bamboo, medicinal plants, plam gur, fruit and vegetable processing, rural engineering etc. Similarly, such clusters are also being identified and assisted by SIDO, SIDBI and NABARD. The cluster approach is aimed at helping cottage industries emerge stronger and competitive in facing the emerging challenges.

Setting-up of Mini Tool Room

886. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has sent a proposal to set up 'Mini Tool Room' one each at Hubli and Harihar under the centrally sponsored scheme to impart technical education to the youth in the State;

(b) if so, the details of the Central scheme and the number of such centres set up in the country, State-wise;

(c) the views of Government in respect of the State's proposal; and

(d) time frame by when the proposal is likely to be accorded approval?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The proposals for setting up Mini Tool Room and Training Centre at Hubli and Harihar, Karnataka have been received from Government of Karnataka through its implementing agency *i.e.*, Government Tool Room and Training Centre, Bangalore.

(b) The Central Scheme to render financial assistance to States for setting up of Mini Tool Rooms is yet to be finalised and as such no such Centres have so far been set up

(c) and (d) The proposals received from Government of Karnataka will be considered after the proposed Central Scheme is finalised.